



DatelineERS

New ERS research and analysis at: www.ers.usda.gov

Economic Research Service

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ERS is a primary source of economic research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.



Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade.

This Month

- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Rice
- Sugar and Sweeteners
- Fruit and Tree Nuts
- Livestock, Dairy and Poultry

All reports along with a calendar of future releases are available at:

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

How Farmers Market Local Foods to Consumers

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR128

In *Direct and Intermediated Marketing of Local Foods*, ERS explores farmers' use of both direct-to-consumer marketing (such as farmers markets) and intermediated channels (such as grocers and restaurants) to sell food to consumers in their local areas. Small and medium-sized farms dominate local foods sales marketed exclusively through direct-to-consumer channels (foods sold at roadside stands or farmers' markets, for example), while large farms dominate local food sales marketed exclusively through intermediated channels. Marketing of local foods, via both direct-to-consumer and intermediated channels, grossed \$4.8 billion in 2008—about four times higher than estimates based solely on direct-to-consumer sales.

Is There Overlap in the Farm Safety Net?

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB87

Recent public discussion of Federal farm programs has suggested that the current array of programs, constructed over time through successive farm acts and other legislation, has created the potential for overlap among programs. *Identifying Overlap in the Farm Safety Net* provides a classification of types of overlap and a synthesis of ERS research about overlapping payments in the farm safety net, including how to identify and measure overlap among crop revenue insurance, ACRE, SURE, and ad hoc disaster assistance.

How Much Time Do Americans Spend on Food?

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB86

On an average day, Americans age 15 and older spent 67 minutes eating and drinking as a “primary” or main activity. In *How Much Time Do Americans Spend on Food?*, ERS presents an overview of Americans' eating and other food-related time-use patterns, including grocery shopping, meal preparation, and teenagers' time-use patterns in relation to school meals.



Farm Income Forecast Up for 2011

www.ers.usda.gov/Features/FarmIncome

Net farm income is forecast at \$100.9 billion for 2011, up 28 percent from 2010. All three measures of farm sector earnings (net farm income, net cash income, and net value added) are forecast to rise more than 18 percent. Median total farm household income is also expected to rise. Most farm households earn the majority of their income from off-farm sources.

Amber Waves

www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves

In 2012 **Amber Waves** will be published exclusively on line. **Amber Waves** covers the full range of ERS research and analysis, including food, farming, natural resources, and rural America. This month in **Amber Waves**:

The NAFTA Countries Build on Free Trade

The NAFTA governments are seeking more open trading relationships with non-NAFTA countries, such as China, Colombia, Panama, Japan, and South Korea, as well as increased commerce within the North American free-trade area.

Local Foods Marketing Channels Encompass a Wide Range of Producers

Local food marketing channels vary with farm size, with smaller farms dominating direct-to-consumer sales and larger farms dominating sales through grocers and other intermediaries.

U.S. Food Safety Policy Enters a New Era

ERS research conducted over the past two decades provides a number of lessons that can help identify efficient and effective means of implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2010.

Changing Farming Practices Accompany Major Shifts in Farm Structure

Changing production practices, including adoption of labor-saving innovations, have contributed to and been affected by increases in both agricultural productivity and the concentration of production.

Can Brazil Meet the World's Growing Need for Ethanol?

Brazil will need to sustain production growth in the ethanol sector in order to meet increasing domestic demand and maintain its export share.



Where's the (Not) Meat?—Byproducts From Beef and Pork

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/LDP/2011/11Nov/LDPM20901

This report describes the many uses for animal byproducts—both inedible and edible—and estimates the volume of production of beef and pork variety meats in addition to the proportion of value added to the live animal from the byproducts. The value added to U.S. meat trade and the role of variety meats in the global marketplace is also evaluated.

The Renewable Identification Number System and U.S. Biofuel Mandates

<http://ers.usda.gov/Publications/BIO03/>

In this report ERS provides an overview of how the Renewable Identification Number (RIN) market works to ensure compliance with the Renewable Fuel Standard provision of the Energy Independence and Security Act, as well as how RIN prices are determined and which factors influence their prices.

How to get more information...

More information about the items featured in DatelineERS can be found on our Website: www.ers.usda.gov by going to the web address listed in each article. This newsletter is available online at www.ers.usda.gov/news